

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Natural Disaster Assistance for Missouri Citizens

How to Construct a Sandbag Emergency Levee

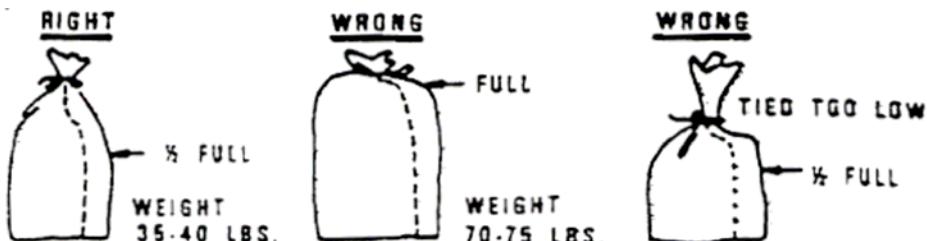
1-800-361-4827

5/2007

Department of Natural Resources fact sheet

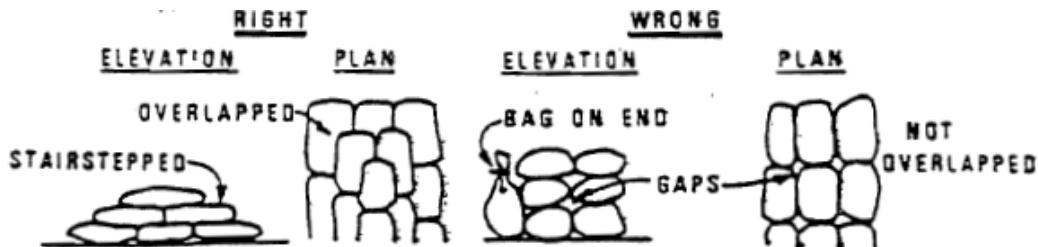
How to Fill Sandbags

Fill sandbags 1/2 to 2/3 full, tie at top so bag will lay flat when put in place. (Overfilled bags leave gaps in levee allowing water to seep through.)



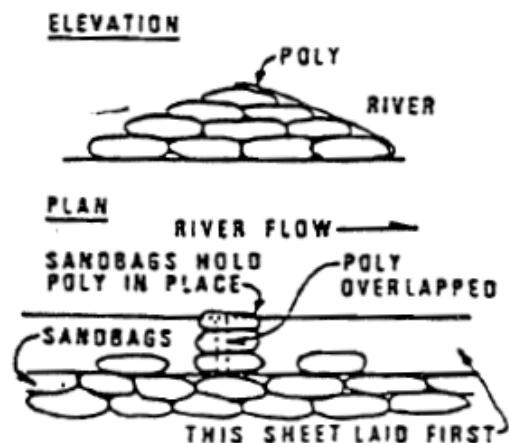
Placing Sandbags

Sandbags should be placed flat on ground, overlapped, tamped into place, and stairstepped.



Polyethylene

Polyethylene (poly) comes in rolls 20 ft. wide and 100 ft. long. It's used to wrap sandbag levees to prevent seepage. Poly should be placed on downstream portion of levee first, then worked upstream with a two- to three-foot overlap. Poly is held in place with sandbags.



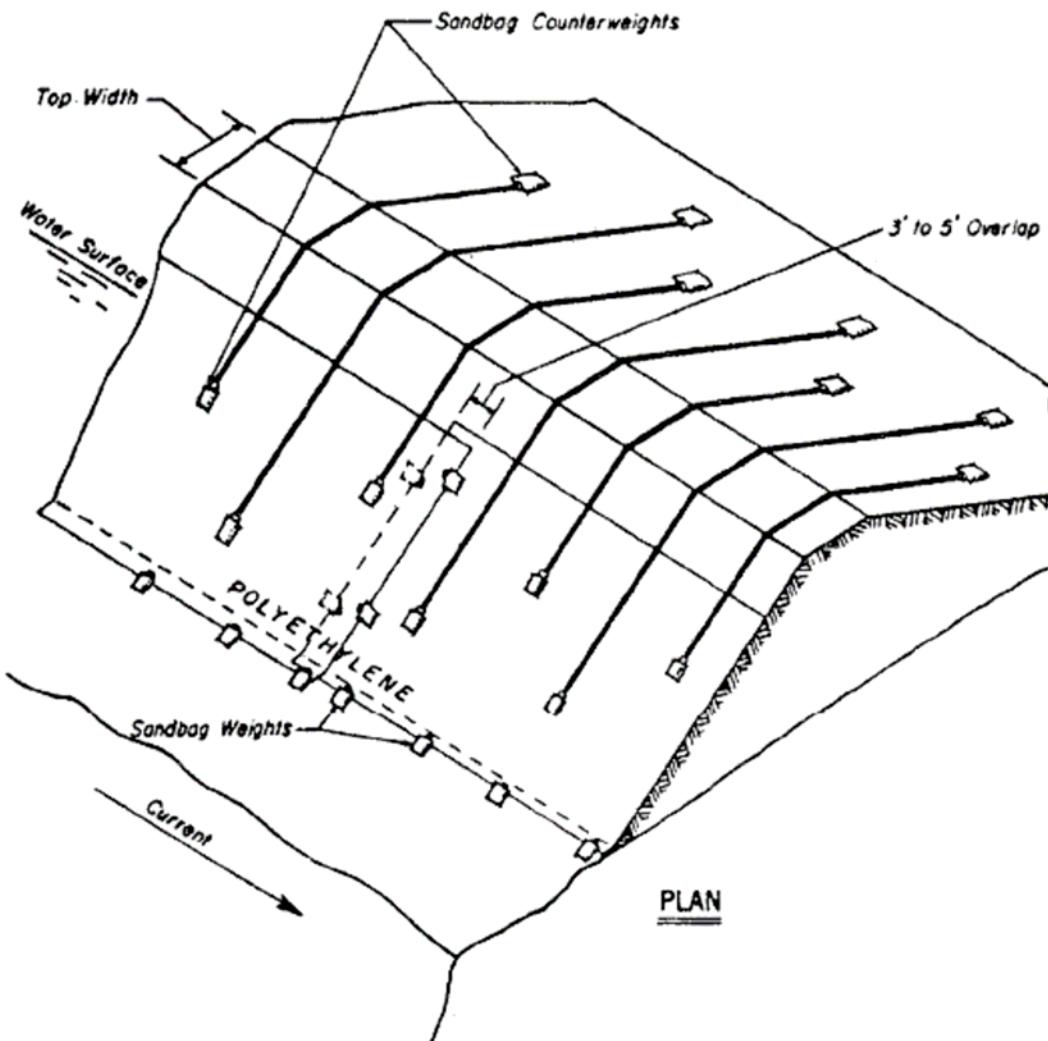
Estimated number of sandbags per linear foot of wall.

Height in Feet	Bags Required
1	5
2	10
3	21
4	36
5	55

Five feet is the practical limit of a sandbag levee. If a higher levee is needed, alternative means of construction should be considered. Note: Preferred levee limit is 3 feet.

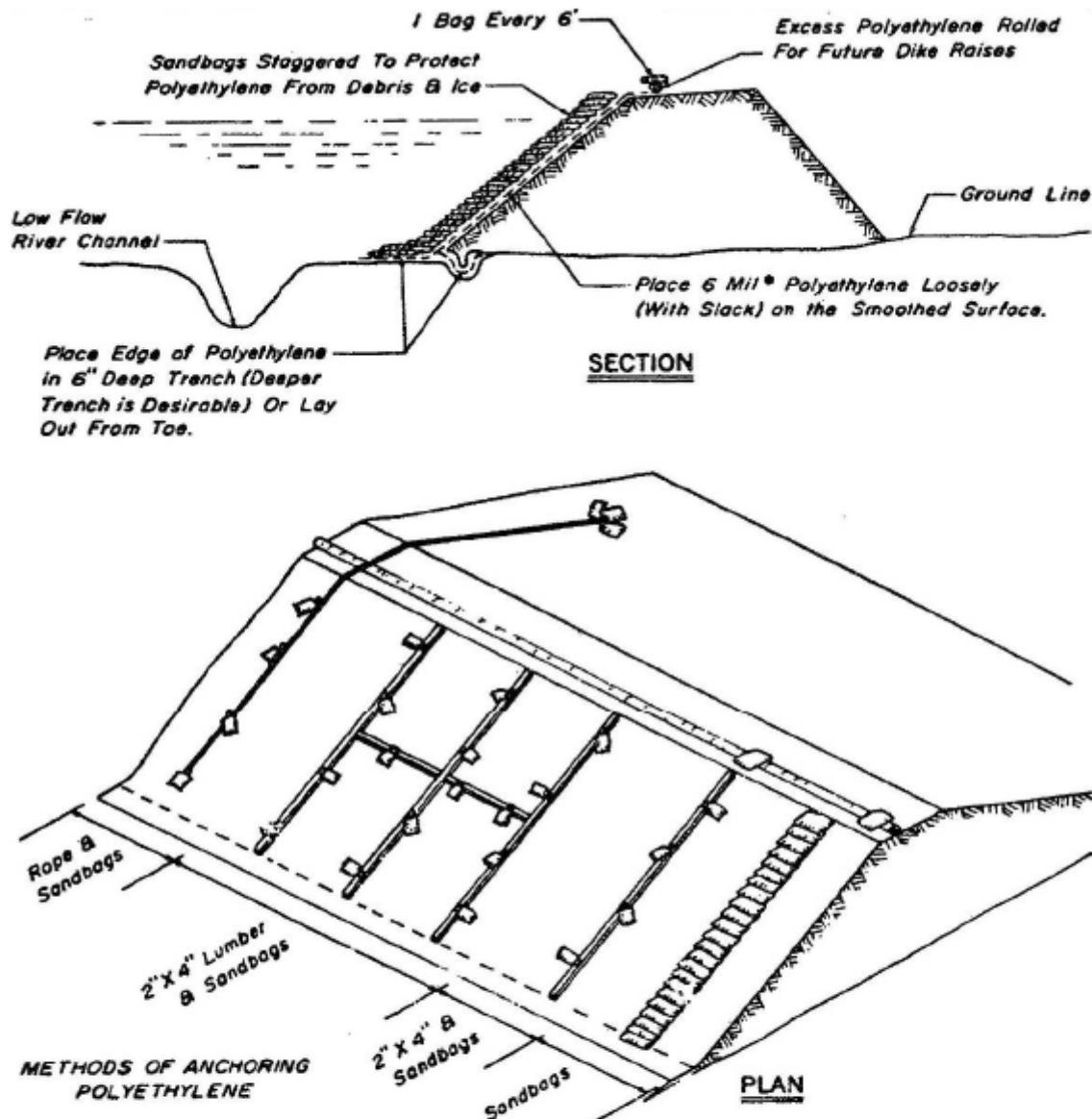
The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is not responsible for any harm or accident caused by the construction or use of a sandbag levee, including failure of such levee and including failure of the levee to withstand floodwaters.

Placement of Polyethylene



**EMERGENCY FLOOD FIGHTING
PLACEMENT OF
POLYETHYLENE
SHEETING IN THE WET**
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is not responsible for any harm or accident caused by the construction or use of a sandbag levee, including failure of such levee and including failure of the levee to withstand floodwaters.



* 6 Mil Black Polyethylene is the most Desirable, 6 Mil Clear Second, 4 Mil Black Third, 4 Mil Clear Fourth, & 2 Mil Polyethylene Should Only Be Used As A Last Resort.

**EMERGENCY FLOOD FIGHTING
POLYETHYLENE
LEVEE PROTECTION**
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS